

Serial No.: 10/580,885
Filed: May 25, 2006

Art Unit: 3745
Examiner: M. Leslie

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.312, as it is after the mailing of a Notice of Allowance and concurrently with the payment of the Issue Fee.

Specifically, in the previous response filed on September 25, 2008, Applicant indicated that replacement sheets for Figures 12 and 13 were being submitted therein. However, upon reviewing the image file wrapper, no such replacement sheets exist and therefore, new replacement drawings are being filed.

Figure 12 has been amended to include reference number 31a as mentioned in the description, for example in ¶[0040] and Figure 13 has been amended to change reference number 29 to 29b and to include reference number 29 as mentioned in the description, for example in ¶[0041]. Both clean and marked up copies of these replacement sheets for Figures 12 and 13 are included herein.

Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments merely address formal matters and do not change the scope of the claims and do not require any substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that these Amendments do not require any additional searching or examination and were not presented earlier because this issue was not recognized until after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and in anticipation of the payment of the Issue Fee.

In the event any issues remain which prevent the entry of this Amendment or the granting of a patent, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted so that such issues can be resolved.

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Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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